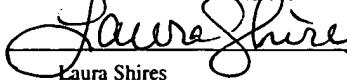


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Laura Shires

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Russell A. HOUSER et al.

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

For: ANASTOMOTIC CONNECTOR FOR
SUTURELESS ANASTOMOSIS
SYSTEMS

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

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PRE
AMEND

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The above-referenced application is a divisional under 35 U.S.C. §121 of Application Number 09/329,503. These claims are filed pursuant to a Restriction Requirement issued by the Examiner (Paper No. 6). Prior to examination on the merits, applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered and considered.